

# **Mercury**

**Work Group Co-Chairs:**

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# Canada's Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

## Challenge:

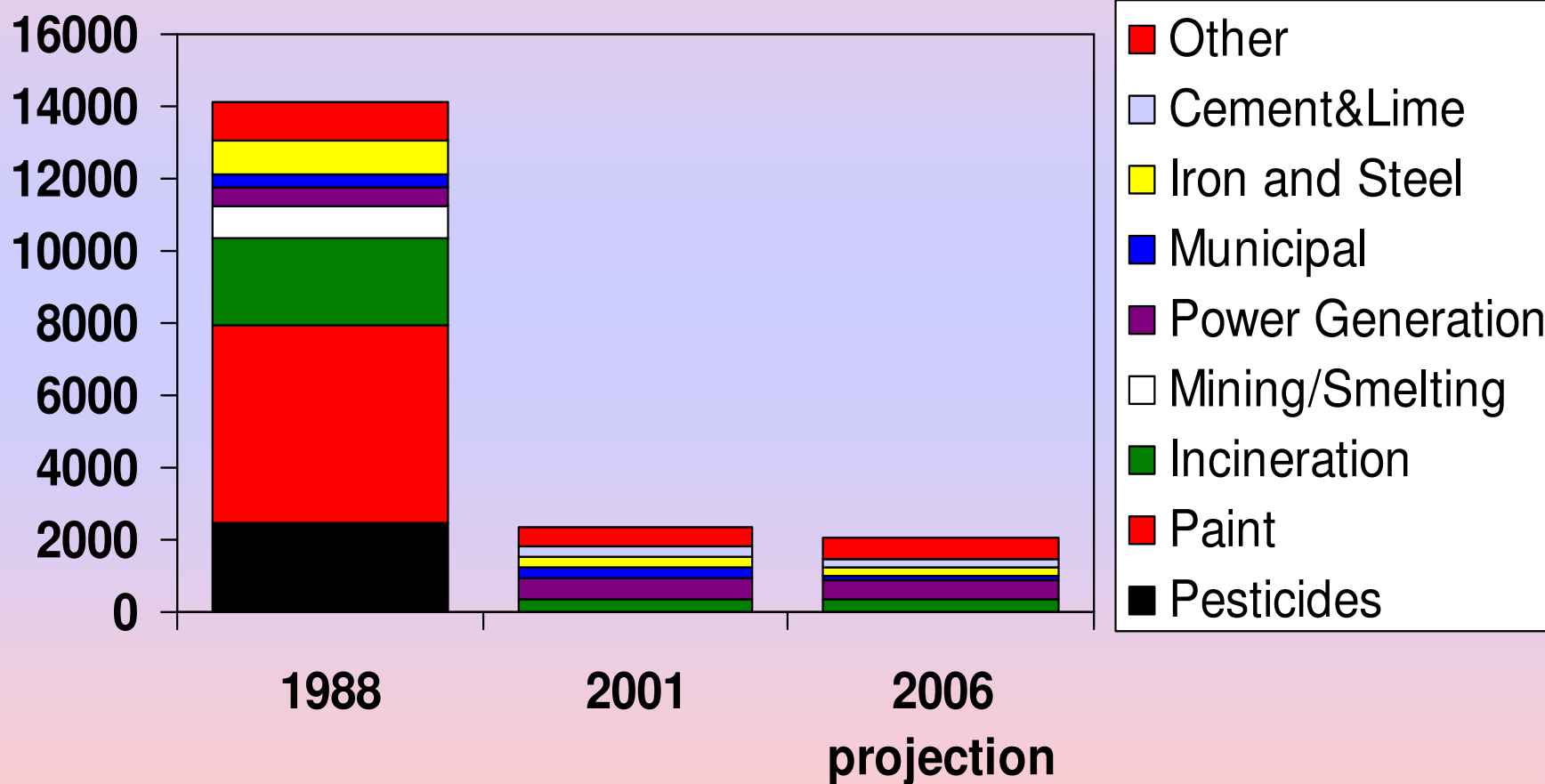
***“Achieve by 2000, a 90% reduction in the release of mercury, or where warranted the use of mercury, in the Great Lakes Basin”***

**Baseline: 1988**

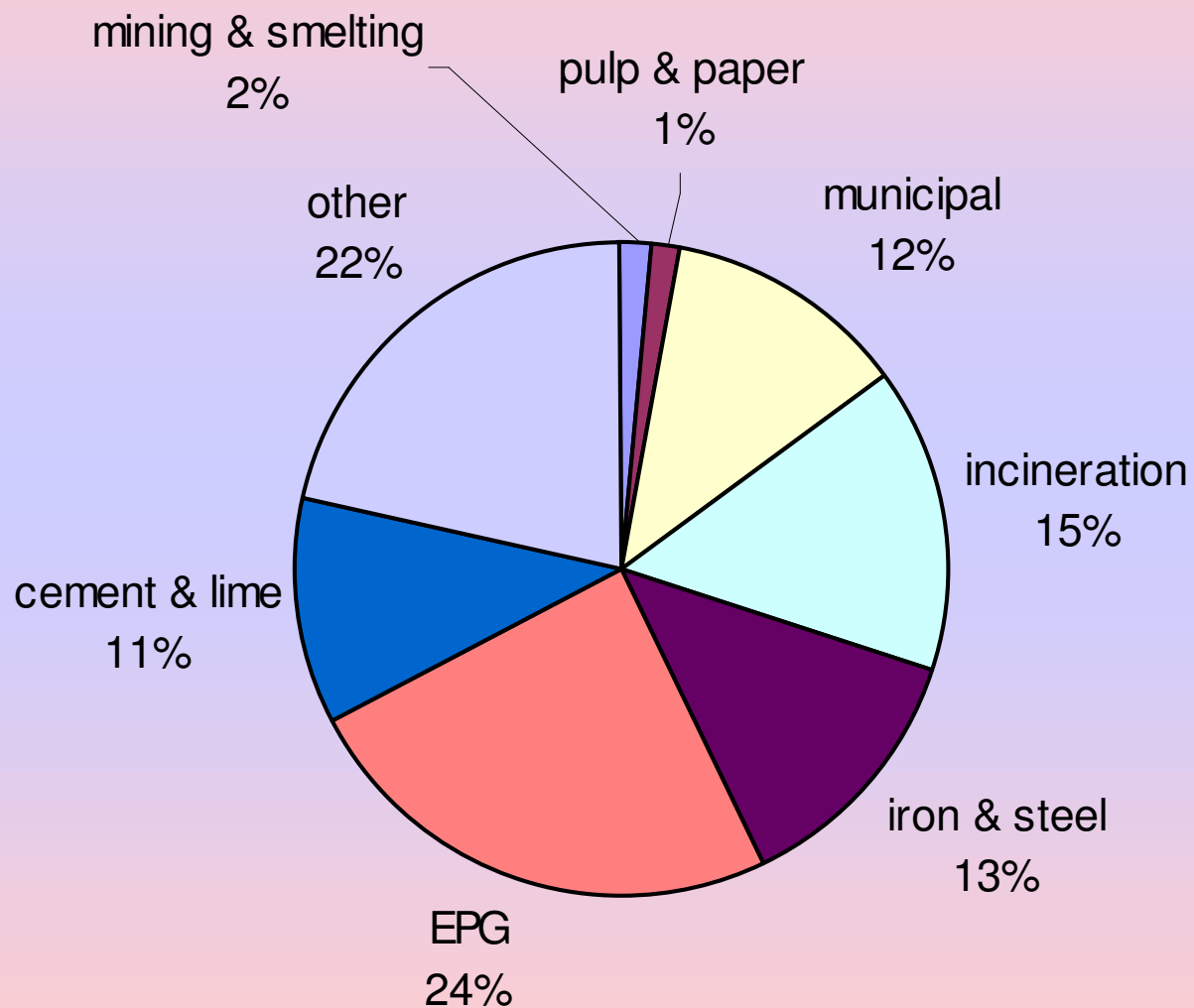
## Progress:

- **Approximately 83% reduction by 2001**

## Ontario Mercury Releases (kg)



# Sources of Mercury Releases in Ontario



# U.S. Mercury Reduction Challenge and Progress

## Challenge:

**“Achieve by 2006 a 50% reduction in use and air emissions of mercury nationwide”**

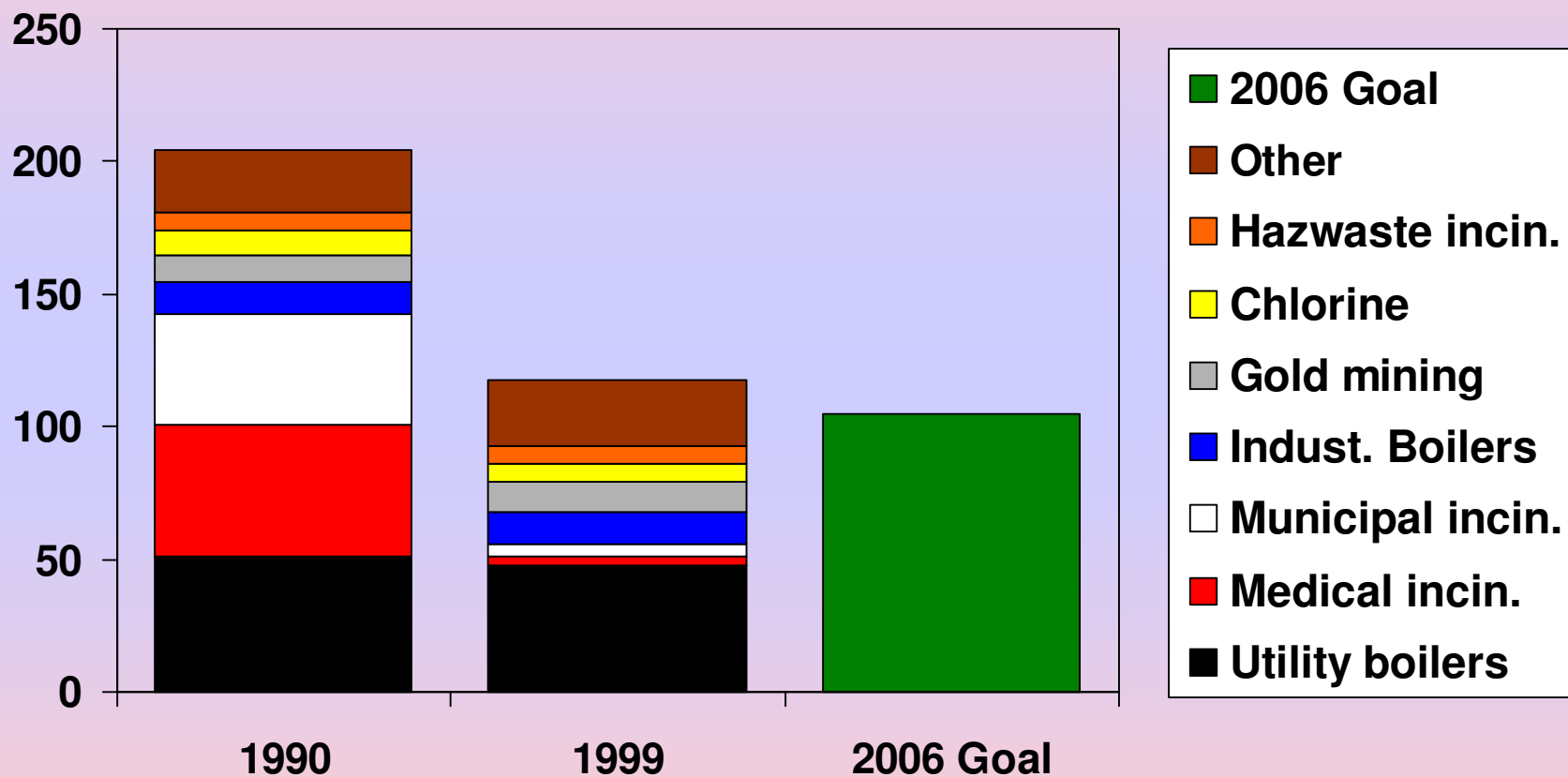
### **♦ Baselines:**

- **Emissions: 1990**
- **Use: 1995**

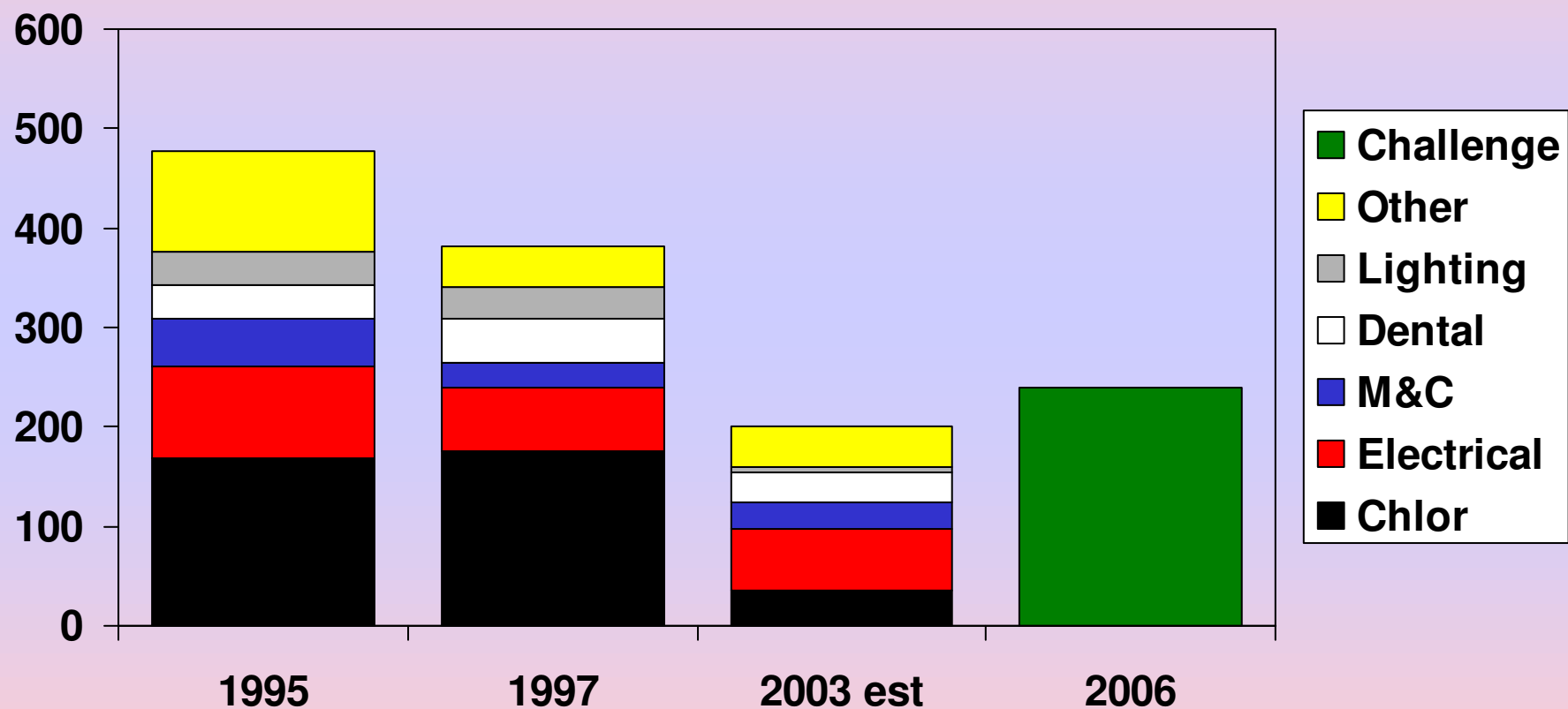
## Progress (best guess):

- **Emissions: > 40% reduction**
- **Use: > 50% reduction**

## U.S. Mercury Releases (tons)



## U.S. Mercury Use (tons)



## **Significant Activities**

- **U.S. Utility Regulations Proposed– Public Comment period ends June 29**
- **Hospitals for Healthy Environment – now has 776 partners representing 2,704 facilities**
- **All existing hospital incinerators in Ontario closed as of December 6, 2003**
- **Chlorine Institute will present 2004 report in Summer**



## **Significant Activities (continued)**

- **Progress update on 1998 Voluntary Agreement: NW Indiana Steel Mills (3) with Lake Michigan Forum, EPA Region 5, & Indiana DEM**
  - ◆ **3700 lbs Hg removed (~80% of total inventory)**
- **NEMA Announces Reductions in Lighting Industry Mercury Use**
- **State Mercury Legislation Introduced— MN, WI, MI, IL, OH**

## **Dental Industry**

- **Workgroup Co-Chairs Report on Options for Provincial State, Local Governments**
- **ADA Launches Dental Amalgam Initiative**
  - ◆ **Best Management Practices for Amalgam Waste**
- **Canadian Dental Association working towards target of 95% reduction by 2005**
- **Ontario Dentists required to have amalgam separator (effective Nov 2003)**
- **Ontario Dental Waste Management Working Group distributing BMP flowcharts to all dentists in Ontario**
- **Milwaukee develops amalgam separator requirements**
- **GLNPO Grants for dental mercury efforts by Navy, Wisconsin Extension, Delta Institute, Erie County**

## **Mercury in Scrap**

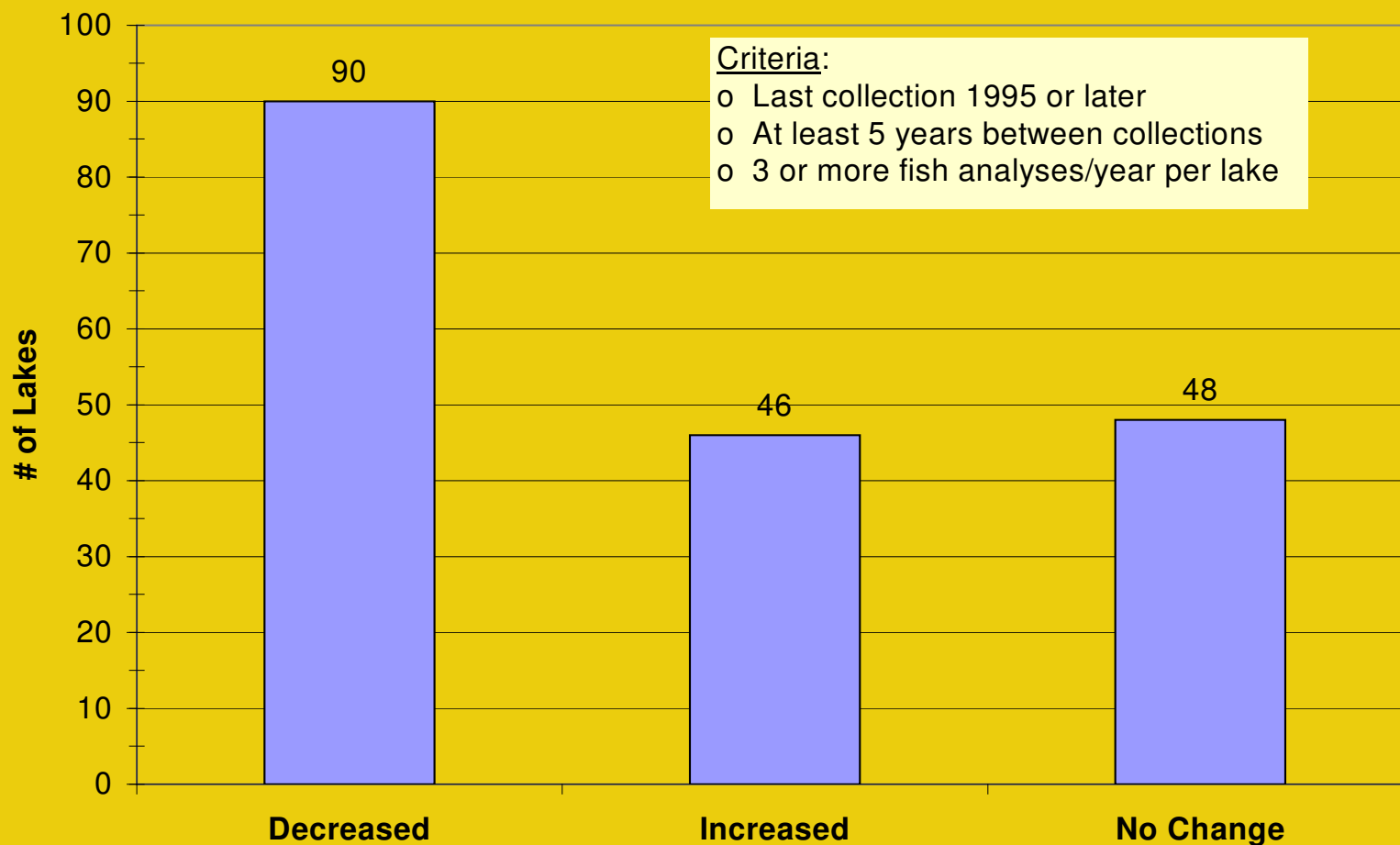
- **No mercury switches in 2003 model year autos**
- **Pilot projects– New York, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Indiana**
  - ◆ **Ontario “Switch-out” program - expansion to other provinces**
- **Inclusion of “clean scrap” requirement in iron and steel foundry emissions standards**
- **Regulation for Electric Arc Furnaces under development**

# **Global Mercury Reduction Efforts**

- **United Nations Environment Program Mercury “Awareness Raising” Workshops**
- **Bangkok (April); Pretoria (June)**
- **6 additional workshops through early 2005**
- **Participation by EPA, Health Canada, CEC**
- **Governing Council to decide additional actions in 2005**
- **Chlorine Institute/EPA participation in workshops in Brazil and India**

## THE GREAT LAKES BINATIONAL TOXICS STRATEGY

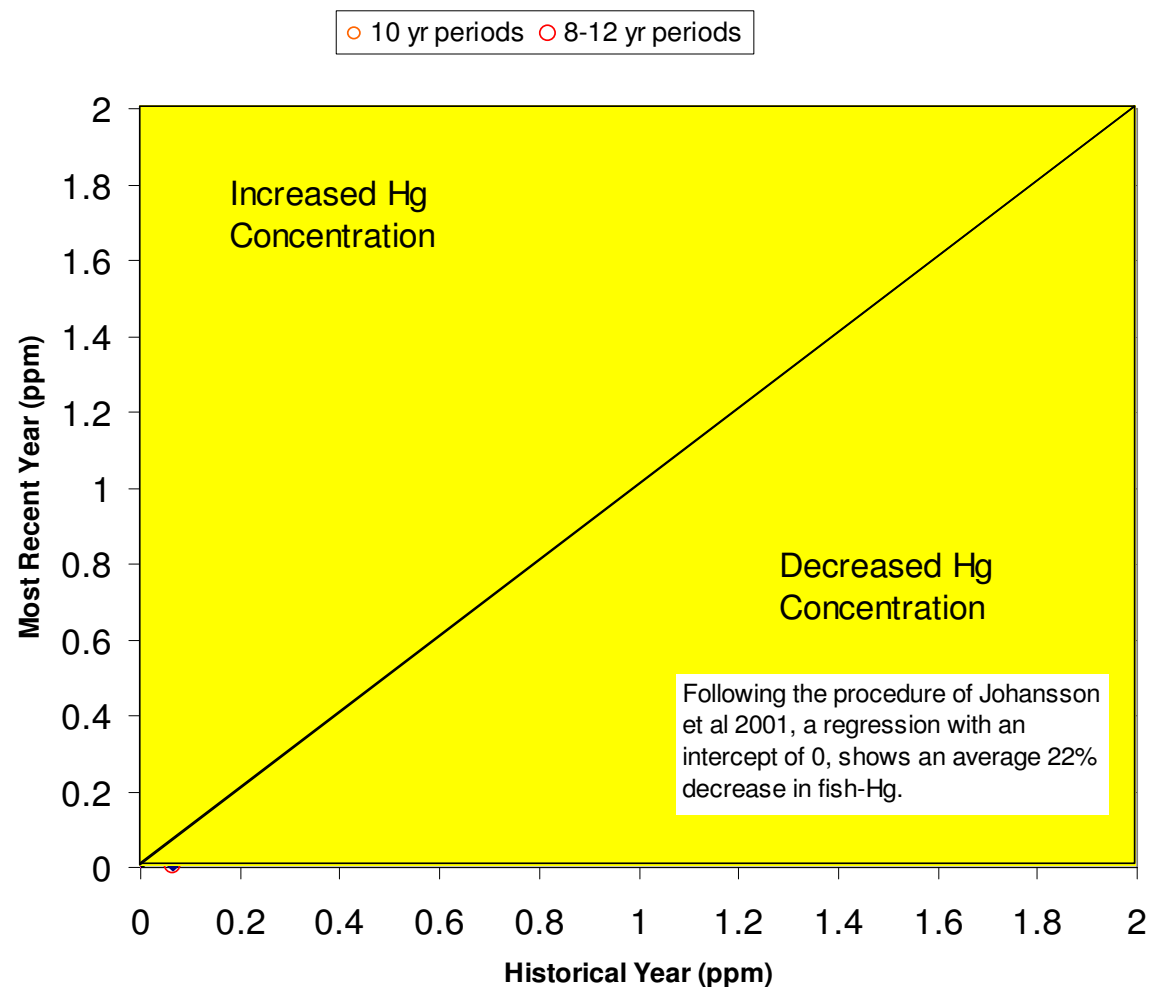
### Comparison between recent and historical fish mercury levels in 184 Minnesota lakes (standard lengths of Walleye, Northern Pike and Lake Trout)



From Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

## THE GREAT LAKES BINATIONAL TOXICS STRATEGY

### Comparison between historical and recent fish-Hg for standard length NP, WE, or LT



From Minnesota Pollution Control Agency